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NOTICE OF HEARING (Senate - May 23, 1996)

[Page: S5610]

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. **McCAIN**. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs will conduct a hearing during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 26, 1996, at 9:30 a.m. on amendments to the Indian Child Welfare Act [ICWA]. The hearing will be held in room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

Those wishing additional information should contact the Committee on Indian Affairs at 224-2251.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

→ Mr. **MURKOWSKI**. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the full Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to receive testimony regarding S. 1804, a bill to make technical and other changes to the laws dealing with the Territories and Freely Associated States of the United States, that I have introduced today. The hearing will also consider an amendment that I have also introduced that deals with medical care for Bikini and Enewetak Atolls in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. In addition to the legislative matters, the committee will also conduct an oversight into the law enforcement initiative in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. While the report from the Secretary of the Interior is overdue, I expect that it will be submitted in sufficient time for review and comment by the Northern Marianas prior to the hearing.

The hearing will be held on Tuesday, June 25, 1996, it will begin at 9:30 a.m., and will take place in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

For further information, please call James P. Beirne, senior counsel to the committee at (202) 224-2564 or Betty Nevitt at (202) 224-0765.

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MURKOWSKI AMENDMENT NO. 4039 (Senate - May 23, 1996)

[Page: S5609]

(Ordered referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.)

Mr. MURKOWSKI submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (S . 1804) to make technical and other changes to the laws dealing with the Territories and Freely Associated States of the United States; as follows:

At the end of the bill add the following new section:

SEC. 9. BIKINI AND ENEWETAK MEDICAL CARE.

In fulfillment of the terms of Public Law 96-205 and section 103(h)(1) of Public Law 99-239, the Secretary of Energy shall include the populations of Bikini and Enewetak within its existing special medical care program in the Marshall Islands at the request of the local government and on a reimbursable basis.

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S.1804

To make Technical and Other Changes to the Laws Dealing with the Territories and Freely Associated States of the United States. (Introduced in the Senate)

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May 23, 1996

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FILE s1804.is

S 1804 IS
104th CONGRESS
2d Session

To make Technical and Other Changes to the Laws Dealing with the Territories and Freely Associated States of the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

May 23, 1996

Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself, Mr. JOHNSTON, and Mr. AKAKA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To make Technical and Other Changes to the Laws Dealing with the Territories and Freely Associated States of the United States.

[Italic->] Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, [<-Italic]

SECTION 1. MARSHALL ISLANDS AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD PROGRAMS.

Paragraph (2) of subsection (h) of section 103 of Public Law 99-239, as amended, is further amended by striking the word 'ten' and inserting in lieu thereof the word 'fifteen' and by adding at the end of subparagraph (B) 'Such technical assistance, programs and services shall ensure, on an ongoing basis, that the commodities provided reflect the changes in the population that have occurred since the effective date of the Compact.'

SEC. 2. AMERICAN MEMORIAL PARK.

Section 5 of Public Law 95-348 is amended by striking subsection (f), and renumbering subsections (g) and (h) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively.

SEC. 3. TERRITORIAL LAND GRANT COLLEGES--TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.

Subsection (b) of section 1361 of Public Law 96-374 is amended by striking the words 'August 30, 1980 (7 U.S.C. 327), commonly referred to as the Second' and inserting in lieu thereof the words 'July 2, 1862 (7 U.S.C. 305), commonly referred to as the First'.

SEC. 4. AMENDMENT TO THE GUAM ORGANIC ACT.

The Organic Act of Guam (48 U.S.C. 1421 et seq.), as amended, is further amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

'SEC. 36. (a) At least 180 days before transferring to any Federal agency excess real property located in Guam, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the government of Guam that the property is available under this section.

'(b) The Administrator shall transfer to the government of Guam all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to excess real property located in Guam, by quit claim deed and without reimbursement, if the government of Guam, within 180 days after receiving notification under subsection (a) regarding the property, notifies the Administrator that the government of Guam intends to acquire the property under this section.

'(c) For purposes of this section, the term 'excess real property' means excess property (as that term is defined in section 3 of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949, as in effect on the date of enactment of the Guam Land Return Act) that is real property.'

SEC. 5. REPEAL OF LIMITATION ON USE OF LANDS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM.

(a) IN GENERAL- Section 818(b)(2) of Public Law 96-418 (94 Stat. 1782), is repealed.

(b) EXECUTION OF INSTRUMENTS- The Secretary of the Navy and the Administrator General Services shall execute all instruments necessary to implement this section.

SEC. 6. CLARIFICATION OF ALLOTMENT FOR TERRITORIES.

Section 901(a), Part 1, title I of the Act of June 19, 1968 (42

U.S.C. 3791(a)), as amended, is further amended in paragraph (2) by changing the proviso to read as follows: '(2) 'State' means any State of the United States, the District of Columbia, The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.'

SEC. 7. AMENDMENTS TO THE REVISED ORGANIC ACT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

(a) Section 7(a) of Public Law 90-496 (82 Stat. 839), as amended, is further amended by adding at the end thereof 'As used in this section, the term 'temporary absence' shall not be construed as being physically absent from the territory while on official Government business.'

(b) Section 3 of Public Law 94-392 (90 Stat. 1195), as amended, is further amended to read as follows--

(1) by inserting 'hereinafter' between 'obligations' and 'issued';

(2) by deleting 'priority for payment' and inserting in lieu thereof 'a parity lien with every other issue of bonds or other obligations hereinafter issued for payment'; and

(3) by deleting 'in the order of the date of issue'.

(c) The provisions of section 149(d) (3) (A) (i) (I) and 149(d) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, shall not apply to bonds issued--

(1) by an authority created by statute of the Virgin Islands legislature, the proceeds of which will be used to advance refund certain bonds issued by such authority on July 8, 1992; or

(2) by an authority created by statute of the Virgin Islands legislature, the proceeds of which will be used to advance refund certain bonds issued by such authority on November 3, 1994.

(d) The amendments made by subsections (b) and (c) shall apply to obligations issued on or after the date of enactment of this section.

SEC. 8. COMMISSION ON THE ECONOMIC FUTURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT AND MEMBERSHIP--

(1) There is hereby established a Commission on the Economic Future of the Virgin Islands (the 'Commission'). The Commission shall consist of six members appointed by the President, two of whom shall be selected from nominations made by the Governor of the Virgin Islands. The President shall designate one of the members of the Commission to be Chairman.

(2) In addition to the six members appointed under paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Interior shall be an ex-officio member of the Commission.

(3) Members of the Commission appointed by the President shall be persons who by virtue of their background and experience are particularly suited to contribute to achievement of the purposes of the Commission.

(4) Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for travel, subsistence and other necessary expenses incurred by them in the performance of their duties.

(5) Any vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(b) PURPOSE AND REPORT--

(1) The purpose of the Commission is to make recommendations to the President and Congress on the policies and programs necessary to provide for a secure and self-sustaining future for the local economy of the Virgin Islands through 2020 and on the role of the Federal Government in providing for that future. In developing recommendations, the Commission shall--

(A) solicit information and advice from persons and entities that the Commission determines have expertise to assist the Commission in its work;

(B) examine and analyze historical data since 1970 on

expenditures for infrastructure and services;

(C) analyze the sources of funds for such expenditures;

(D) assemble relevant demographic and economic data, including trends and projects for the future; and

(E) estimate future needs of the Virgin Islands, including needs for capital improvements, educational needs and social, health and environmental requirements.

(2) The recommendations of the Commission shall be transmitted to the President, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate and the Committee on Resources of the United States House of Representatives no later than December 1, 1997. The recommendations shall be accompanied

by a report that sets forth the basis for the recommendations and includes an analysis of the capability of the Virgin Islands to meet projected needs based on reasonable alternative economic, political and social conditions in the Caribbean, including the opening in the near future of Cuba to trade, tourism and development.

(c) POWERS--

(1) The Commission may--

(A) hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such testimony and receive such evidence as it may deem advisable;

(B) use the United States mail in the same manner and upon the same conditions as other departments and agencies of the United States;

(C) enter into contracts or agreements for studies and surveys with public and private organizations and transfer funds to Federal agencies to carry out such aspects of the Commission's functions as the Commission determines can best be carried out in such manner; and

(D) incur such necessary expenses and exercise such other powers as are consistent with and reasonably required to perform its functions.

(2) The Secretary of the Interior shall provide such office space, furnishings and equipment as may be required to enable the Commission to perform its functions. The Secretary shall also furnish the Commission with such staff, including clerical support, as the Commission may require and shall provide to the Commission financial and administrative services, including those relating to budgeting, accounting, financial reporting, personnel and procurement.

(3) The President, upon request of the Commission, may direct the head of any Federal agency or department to assist the Commission and if so directed such head shall--

(A) furnish the Commission to the extent permitted by law and within available appropriations such information as may be necessary for carrying out the functions of the Commission and as may be available to or procurable by such department or agency; and

(B) detail to temporary duty with the Commission on a reimbursable basis such personnel within his administrative jurisdiction as the Commission may need or believe to be useful for carrying out its functions, each such detail to be without loss of seniority, pay or other employee status.

(d) CHAIRMAN- Subject to general policies that the Commission may adopt, the Chairman of the Commission shall be the chief executive officer of the Commission and shall exercise its executive and administrative powers. The Chairman may make such provisions as he may deem appropriate authorizing the performance of his executive and administrative functions by the staff of the Commission.

(e) APPROPRIATIONS- There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

(f) TERMINATION- The Commission shall terminate three months after the transmission of the report and recommendations under subsection (b)(2).